

sion, on hand at any interesting operation or ease that may be going on in any part of the house; another, without the formality of request, uses the telephone for long social visits. One manager says that some specials seem to spend little time in their patients' rooms, most of it being employed in walking in the hallways and chatting in a stage whisper to any who will listen; another nurse loses favor with the housekeeper by demanding for her patient delicacies out of season and reason. This, of course, cannot apply to the hospital owned and operated by one physician, who, collecting a large fee for treatment, can afford to cater to capricious appetites, but to the general hospital. Another on entering the hospital feels a sort of irresponsibility, and leaves many of the important matters of care to those appointed to take her place when off duty. A few, forgetting their training days and having become accustomed to the freedom of home, find it hard to become again a unit in the general working of the institution, and come late to meals and in other ways upset order. There is also the supercilious nurse, who does not feel the necessity of common courtesy to house officers. This nurse is dictatorial to pupil nurses, orderlies, and maids. Then there are those whose patients leave the hospital dissatisfied with everything and everybody but their dear nurse, without whom they would surely have died in such miserable surroundings, and many others whose faults of omission and commission remain a cause of worry to many superintendents.

Opposed to all these, I am told of the exceptional class who by their patience, charm, gentle manners, good breeding, and judgment have won for themselves permanent places in the hearts of these troubled managers. They strike the happy medium in all things, their influence in the training-school is for good, their recital of unusual or trying experiences, of travel or nursing in foreign lands, is an inspiration to younger nurses, and makes them more contented with the little trials in these first years of work. Nurses who readily adapt themselves to existing circumstances are always welcomed in the hospitals as elsewhere.

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#### WHAT IS A FAIR RATE OF CHARGE?

DEAR EDITOR: One of my classmates came to assist me while I was nursing my nephew with typhoid. After four days she left because she was ill. She charged four dollars a day for four days, and one dollar for laundry. She had not been well before she came, and was ill six

hours one day while here. She had only twelve hours' duty. While ill I gave her all the attention I could, including medicine. She was taken to and from the street car in the carriage, although it was only a ten minutes' walk. Am I unjust in thinking that she was entitled to charge only pro rata for the portion of the week, since she left for her own convenience, and that she had no right to the extra for laundry? What do other private nurses do in regard to laundry? When it is not convenient to have it done in my patient's home, I have always paid for having it done outside, and I certainly never charged extra for soiled clothes I took home because I left before wash-day.

I want to thank the author of "The Timid Nurse" and to offer her my sympathy. How many times have I felt that "I hate to go, and I hate to stay," but had not the ability to express it so cleverly. I hope she will pass through her slough of despond and come out the other side as I have.

I. P.

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#### RANK FOR ARMY NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: It is well nigh impossible for those who know the Army Nurse Corps only through hearsay to estimate justly what it has to offer. From those who have had a long and happy experience in its ranks, but little is heard. It is the soreheads who rush into print—those who have been discharged for one cause or another, or who were unable to secure a reappointment when they would have liked to have one. It is these who seem to wish to extend and perpetuate their own disaffection, and yet who resent bitterly any suggestion that their love of country may be somewhat lukewarm. It will be long before we can forget that correspondent who in an open letter asked "*why should we?*" (respond to a call for nurses), and who threw into the balance with her "patriotism" the possible "laundry and mess bills." It was the weight of the latter which decided for her that nurses were not called upon to serve Uncle Sam—to help to make his sick soldiers comfortable, and to nurse them back to health.

Conditions in the Army Nurse Corps may leave a good deal to be desired, but no devil is as black as he is painted. When it is remembered—

1. That ever since the Spanish-American War the Medical Department has been handicapped by a deficiency of about two hundred officers, actually required to perform the necessary work of that department;
2. That this lack has had to be supplied by civil physicians under